

Topgallant Clydesdales.

The year 1893 will long be remembered in Canada as an off year in the importation of Clydesdales; fewer horses of this breed were brought over during last season than in any other year, perhaps, since their introduction. However, the well-known importer and breeder, Mr. T. W. Evans, of Yelverton, broke the ice, and brought out three very superior horses, which in point of excellence are far beyond the average in merit, and in the near future will doubtless occasion winners of the past seasons to look well to their laurels. In more favorable times, while Clydesdale breeders and importers were in the hey-day of their prosperity, it required long figures to bring out horses sufficiently good to carry winnings, and those who have held the fort in the show yards of past years did so at no small cost. At present it requires considerable pluck and enterprise to venture to paying long figures, yet Mr. Evans has evidently dealt with no niggard hand, for horses that can receive a premium for a district in the best breeding grounds of Scotland cannot be purchased without a large outlay, and it is from among this class that these horses have been selected.

In the illustration on the first page of this issue are portrayed two grandly finished horses, these are Craickmore Darnley and Umvar. The horse in the left foreground is Craickmore Darnley (5667). This horse was bred by Mr. Wm. McMaster, Challock, Wigtownshire, Scotland, and is of Royal breeding. He was sired by Darnley (222), his dam by the Mighty Druid (1120), the only horse that ever beat Darnley, while Craickmore Darnley's granddam was by Hercules, and great granddam was by Lochfergus Champion—a combination of breeding that is at the top of the list.

There are few living stallions or mares that are bred in this line. A most worthy scion of the two great families is Craickmore Darnley, a horse that will be heard from in the very near future. He follows closely the type of the best sons of Darnley, and in him are united the great essentials, scale and quality. He stands upon short, well-shaped legs, and the best of feet; he has that unmistakable flinty bone which will outwear the horse, his thighs and forearms are strongly muscled, while his top is built after the most handsome pattern. He carries a high head on a grandly-set neck and shoulders, and possesses sufficient style and action to finish the picture. He won third at Stranraer as a yearling in 1887, second at Stranraer as a two-year-old in 1888, second as a three-year-old at Ayr. Last year a colt of his won third at Kilmarnock and fourth at Ayr, and a filly second at Dalbeattie.

Umvar, standing in the right background, is a four-year-old horse that was very much admired at the last Industrial Exhibition. He was sired by that great son of Lord Erskine, Lord Ailsa, his dam being by Topsman (886). Umvar was considered a great horse in his three-year-old form just after landing, but, like many young horses just shipped over, he wanted middle, and had also lost his feather. In these points he has quite recovered, and has sufficient of both to satisfy the most severe critic. This horse has grand feet and legs, and exceptionally good bone, and stands well enough on his *kitts* to suit a Glasgow judge; he has a grand top, strong, well-coupled back, grand, sloping shoulders and powerful quarters, while his manner of going is second to none—in fact, goes at knee and hock like a Hackney. He won third at Kilbride as a yearling, second at Maryhill as a two-year-old, and carried first at Drymeh, Stirling, Bucklyvie and Killean shows the same year.

Yet another good horse is Blythe Prince, 8478. He was bred by Wm. Jno. Wilson, Stranraer, his sire was Prince of Wales (673), dam by Lord Lyon (189). This is unmistakably a son of the old horse, and in many ways is a counterpart of his distinguished sire. He is hardly up to the scale of either of his stable companions, but has sufficient good points about him to make him an exceedingly desirable animal. He possesses that clean cut bone, well-placed pasterns and strong, large feet, for which the sons of Prince of Wales are distinguished.

The trio of horses we have attempted to describe are not only bred in the most popular lines of the day, but are perfectly distinct in type and breeding; therefore, visitors to the Topgallant Stud are at once assured of finding variety and outstanding excellence.

The Hon. Mr. Angers, Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion, has made arrangements to have an apiary established at the Central Experimental Farm. It will be for purely experimental purposes, and under the charge of Prof. Fletcher, Dominion Entomologist.

Meeting of the Central Canada Agricultural Society.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

The Central Canada Agricultural Society, formerly known as "The Ensilage and Economic Stock Feeding Association," held a very successful convention, lasting two days, in Montreal. Meetings were held on Tuesday, February 6th, at 10 a. m., 2 p. m., and 8 p. m., and on Wednesday at 10 a. m. and 2 p. m., in the Natural History Hall on University Street. The first meeting at 10 a. m. on Tuesday was opened by a very able address by the President, Mr. Wm. Ewing; this was followed by a paper on "Preparation of Soil for Cropping," by Mr. Scott, St. Michel, in introducing whom the President remarked that "if Mr. Scott could preach as well as he practised," his paper would be most instructive, which it undoubtedly was, being followed by a very interesting discussion on drainage, in which Mr. Thos. Irving, of Logan Farm, and Mr. J. X. Perreault took a leading part. In this discussion the relative advantages of wood, stone and tiles as drains were fully brought out, the consensus of opinion being that tiles were the best, although at present their high price was a very serious obstacle in the way of their more general use.

At the afternoon session Prof. Fletcher, of the Experimental Farm at Ottawa, opened with a very interesting address on grasses, in which he strongly urged farmers to sow a mixture in place of timothy and clover alone, both for meadow and pasture. For the latter purpose he very strongly urged the more general use of both Orchard Grass, or Cock's Foot, and Kentucky Blue, or as it is more commonly called, June Grass, giving the following as an excellent mixture for general use:—Grasses—Timothy, 6 lbs.; Meadow Fescue, 4 lbs.; Orchard Grass, 2 lbs.; Red Top, 2 lbs.; Blue Grass, 2 lbs. Clovers—Lucerne, 2 lbs.; White Dutch, 2 lbs.; Red, 2 lbs.; Alsike, 2 lbs.—making 16 lbs. of grasses and 8 lbs. of clovers. While in response to an enquiry from one of his audience he recommended for renewing poor, dry upland pasture a mixture of Hard Fescue, Sheep Fescue and Canada Blue Grass (known botanically as *Poa Compressa*, while Kentucky Blue Grass is termed *Poa Pratensis*). *Brome Grass* Prof. Fletcher also stated to be a very valuable grass, although it has the disadvantage of being somewhat hard to eradicate; and for very wet, low land, which cannot be drained, he suggested the use of such grasses as Canadian Blue Joint and Canary Reed Grass—coarse but succulent grasses which may be cut early for soiling.

After the discussion on grasses had terminated, Prof. Fletcher gave a short paper on "The Horn Fly," in which he advocated the use of kerosene emulsion as a preventative of their attacks, the cattle to be sprayed every second morning. He also stated that in those states in which this pest had first appeared they had only lasted for three years, disappearing after the third.

At the evening session Sir Donald A. Smith took the chair and introduced the speaker of the evening, Prof. J. W. Robertson, who gave a most interesting address, entitled "Agriculture and Culture," in which he showed how, by using his brains as well as his muscle, the farmer could very much better his position and elevate his calling.

The morning session on Wednesday opened with a short account by Prof. Robertson of some of their experimental work carried on at Ottawa in hog feeding, after which the President called on Messrs. Walker, of Huntingdon, Mair, of Howick, and Tait, of St. Laurent, to address the meeting, which they did, provoking an interesting discussion, in which Mr. J. Y. Ormsby, Manager of the Isaleigh Grange Farm, Danville, and others took part.

This was followed by a few words from Mr. Sidney Fisher, of Knowlton, on "Feeding Dairy Cows," after which the meeting adjourned till 2 p. m., when Prof. Robertson led off with an address on "The Most Profitable Methods of Feeding for Winter Milk," in which he pointed out the strong points of the silo, laying special emphasis on the good results obtained at the Experimental Farm from the mixture of corn, horse beans and sunflowers, which he has advocated during the last two years.

After the discussion which followed this address, before adjourning till the next convention, it was moved by Mr. J. X. Perreault and seconded by Mr. J. Y. Ormsby, that this Association do hold another meeting at the time of the Provincial Exhibition, to be held in this city next fall; this was carried unanimously.

At the afternoon session on Tuesday the board of directors for the ensuing year was elected, and at their first meeting, Mr. Wm. Ewing, who has served as President for three years, and done yeoman service for the Association, declining re-election, Mr. A. J. Dawes, of Lachine, was unanimously elected President, and Mr. S. Fisher, Vice-President.

This Association is doing capital work among the farmers on the Island of Montreal, and in some parts of Eastern Ontario and the Townships, and it is to be hoped very much that it will receive every encouragement from farmers all through Quebec and Eastern Ontario, for whose benefit it has been established. The Hon. Louis Beaubien, Minister of Agriculture for the Province of Quebec, attended the convention and promised all the aid in his power, including a grant towards printing the report of the meeting, which we understand will be printed in both English and French.

STOCK.

Mr. John A. McGillivray's Horned Dorsets at Chicago.

Pressure of work has prevented my sooner writing you in reference to your reports of the awards at the recent World's Columbian Exposition. I do not wish to take up much of your space or time, but I must claim sufficient portion thereof to take exception to your report in so far as it refers to the Dorset Horn sheep.

I do not complain so much that, wherever you speak of the honors won by Canada, you place Mr. Hector first and me second: that is only a matter of order at most, although you would think the man that took half of the first prizes awarded, his name would naturally appear first when speaking of the awards, and not the one who took third place. But that is, as I said before, of little matter. It looks to me like the article was inspired by Mr. Hector or some one in his interests. Let me just say here that I hope it was not. I have been asked by several of the stock journals to send a report of the Dorset Horn exhibit, and I have refused in each instance, as I think these reports should come from an unbiased quarter. And now, while I take exception to your report, I do not wish to reflect adversely upon Mr. Hector or his flock, because his flock is a good one; but having taken first place with my sheep now these two years past, not only throughout the different exhibitions in Canada but at the World's Fair as well, and those same sheep having taken first place in all the leading English exhibitions during the last two years, it is just that I should claim a recognition of the position that my sheep have attained.

In the article in question, you say, "The aged ewe, Cottage Perfect, owned by T. W. Hector, being considered as near perfection as possible, some prominent breeders from Dorset saying they never saw her equal at any show in England." Now, as far as I am aware, there was only one prominent breeder of our sheep present from England, who is a brother of the Secretary of our Association, Mr. Ensor, of Dorchester. Now this Mr. Ensor informed me that he never saw as many fine specimens of this class of sheep in any one flock, either in the Old World or the New, as he found in mine. There was another young man there, I suppose of some eighteen or twenty years, who is the son of a prominent English breeder, and who, while he spoke very highly of my sheep, possibly may have spoken after the same manner of what you say was said about Mr. Hector's sheep. But surely that ought not to be used to make people believe that the Dorset men from the Old World present at the Exhibition thought more of that sheep than the one that succeeded in carrying away the sweepstakes prize from her.

I showed an old ewe against Mr. Hector in this class, a ewe that had fed her lamb up till July, and a ewe that I did not intend exhibiting at all at the Columbian Exposition until September; and even handicapped in that way (because I am sure Mr. Hector's ewe had not had a lamb for many months prior to the time mine had), still it took the judges half an hour to try and decide which was the more worthy, and before they succeeded in coming to a conclusion they had to call in a third man.

But when Mr. Hector's ewe, Cottage Perfect, came to be exhibited against my ewe, Sister 3236, these two same judges that had disputed as to the relative merits between the other two ewes, did not take two minutes in awarding the first prize, including the silver cup, to my ewe.

Now surely in view of those facts, which you surely were not aware of when the article in question was written, does it not appear unjust to give the prominence you do to Mr. Hector's ewe, and not even mention the ewe that left her far behind in the race? Nor can it be said that this ewe did more than she was entitled to in this competition, because at the four great exhibitions in the Old World, winding up with the Royal, she also took first, namely, the exhibitions at the following places: Somerset County's Show, Royal County's Show, Bath and West of England Show and the Royal Show of England. More than that, her breeder, who also bred Mr. Hector's ewe to which reference is made, informed me when delivering her that she was the best sheep he ever raised, and surely he ought to be a judge.

I see you do say a kindly word or two of my flock, but why you praise up Wallace to the exclusion of saying a single kind word of Dugald, who not only took second at the Royal of England, but took first place two years hand running at the exhibitions in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, and also first place in his class at Chicago, I cannot understand. In my opinion he is the best ram ever imported into this country. Certainly he has met in competition all the other leading rams, or at least most of them, and has never been beaten in his class yet, and ran a strong race for sweepstakes against a young ram of two years of age at Chicago; whereas Wallace only took third place in the sweepstakes competition.

I wish to take exception to the further statement, "The ewes of two years and under three, (speaking of Mr. Hector's), together with the shearings, all imported this summer, were as good as England could produce at the Royal." I wish to inform you that my ewe that took first prize at Chicago in the yearlings also took first prize at the Royal against the very ewes that you are speaking